

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1031

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS 0045

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

S E C R E T VIENNA 10348

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD

ENDING DECEMBER 14, 1973

1. SUMMARY. THE LAST WEEK OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS PRIOR TO THE MID-DECEMBER BREAK HIGHLIGHTED DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE EASTERN AND WESTERN APPROACHES, AS BOTH SIDES CLOSED WITH FIRM DEFENSES OF THEIR POSITIONS. THE CZECH REP AT THE 11 DEC PLENARY EXTENSIVELY CRITIQUED THE ALLIED INTENTION TO PROPOSE VARIOUS ASSOCIATED MEASURES. THE FRG REP, AT THE SAME SESSION, CONTINUED DETAILED ELABORATION OF ALLIED PROPOSALS AND PROPOSED FOUR SPECIFIC ASSOCIATED MEASURES TO APPLY TO US AND SOVIET FORCES. ON 13 DEC.,

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THE SOVIET REP DELIVERED AN UNYIELDING CRITIQUE OF WESTERN

PROPOSALS, AFTER WHICH THE BELGIAN REP WOUND UP FOR THE WESTERN SIDE WITH STRESS ON NEED TO IMPROVE FORCE BALANCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND A CALL FOR DISCUSSION IN JAN OF DETAILS OF WESTERN FIRST PHASE PROPOSALS. END SUMMARY.

2. PLENARY SESSIONS. DURING THE PLENARY SESSION ON 11 DEC, THE CZECH REP (KLEIN) DELIVERED THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE AND NEGATIVE CRITIQUE HEARD YET OF ALLIED INTENTIONS TO PROPOSE "ASSOCIATED MEASURES." HUNGARY REP (PETRAN), IN BRIEF INTERVENTION, REITERATED FAMILIAR EASTERN ARGUMENTS, INCLUDING HUNGARIAN POSITION ON ITS STATUS AS A SPECIAL PARTICIPANT IN THE TALKS. DURING THE SAME SESSION, WEST GERMAN REP (BEHREND) CONTINUED DETAILED ELABORATION OF ALLIED PROPOSALS AND TABLED FOUR SPECIFIC ASSOCIATED MEASURES TO APPLY TO US AND SOVIET FORCES. THESE MEASURES ARE: PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF MOVEMENTS INTO THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS INCLUDING ROTATIONS; PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT OF MAJOR EXERCISES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS; LIMITATIONS ON THE SIZE, NUMBER, AND DURATION OF EXERCISES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS; AND EXCHANGE OF OBSERVERS AT MAJOR EXERCISES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS. AT THE REQUEST OF THE US REP, THE AD HOC GROUP DELETED AS PREMATURE THE REFERENCES IN THE WEST GERMAN SPEECH TO MOVING IN JAN TO A FOCUS ON US AND SOVIET GROUND FORCES.

3. CLOSING OUT THE TALKS ON 13 DECEMBER, THE SOVIET (KHLESTOV) AND BELGIAN (ADRIAENSSEN) REPS SUMMED UP THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES. THE SOVIET SPEECH WAS A RATHER UNYIELDING CRITIQUE OF THE WESTERN APPROACH TO THE NEGOTIATIONS. KHLESTOV CHARACTERIZED THE GENERAL CONDUCT OF THE TALKS IN A POSITIVE WAY, BUT CLAIMED THAT NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE WESTERN PROPOSALS ATTEMPTED TO GAIN UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGES AND WERE NOT CONSISTENT ON MANY POINTS WITH THE 28 JUNE COMMUNIQUE WHICH MARKED THE END OF THE PREPARATORY TALKS. ADRIAENSSEN FOLLOWED, STRESSING THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE FORCE BALANCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND CALLING FOR DISCUSSION IN JAN OF DETAILS OF WESTERN FIRST PHASE PROPOSALS. IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE NEXT PLENARY SESSION WAS "FORESEEN" FOR JAN 15, 1974. FOLLOWING THE PLENARY, THE POLISH REP (STRULAK) MET WITH THE PRESS AND PRESENTED A FAIRLY STANDARD DEFENSE OF THE EASTERN STANCE, AVOIDING DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PROPOSALS OF EITHER SIDE.

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4. BILATERALS. IN BILATERAL CONTACTS THIS WEEK, THE FRG REP DISCUSSED EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION WITH THE POLISH REP, WHO CLAIMED THAT PERHAPS THERE WERE MISAPPREHENSIONS ON BOTH SIDES ABOUT THE ISSUE. POLISH REP SAID THAT POLAND ACCEPTED THE EC AS A FACT OF LIFE, AND DENIED ANY INTENT TO INHIBIT ITS GROWTH. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, THE UK REP (ROSE) ALSO EXPLAINED TO POLISH REP WEST EUROPEAN CONCERN ABOUT RELATIONSHIP OF MBFR TO POSSIBLE EUROPEAN DEFENSE COOPERATION. POLISH REP CLAIMED THAT

EASTERN SIDE HAD NOT CONSIDERED TWO ISSUES RELATED UNTIL THE
CONNECTION HAD ARISEN HERE IN VIENNA. STRULAK ALSO SUGGESTED TO
ROSE THAT A FREEZE ON LEVEL OF FORCES DURING NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT
HELP EAST AGREE TO A TWO-PHASE APPROACH. POLISH
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